

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 066747

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CV, US

SUBJECT: CAPE VERDE PAIGC DELEGATION CALL AT DEPARTMENT

REF: STATE 061700

1. SUMMARY: PAIGC CAPE VERDE DELEGATION HEADED BY
PEDRO PIRES MET WITH ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY
AND OTHER DEPTOFFS FOR 90 MINUTES ON MARCH 20. PIRES
STRESSED CAPE VERDE PAIGC DESIRED BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS
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PAGE 02 STATE 066747

WITH US, SAID INDEPENDENT CAPE VERDE WOULD ADOPT POLICY OF

STRICT NON-ALIGNMENT, EMPHASIZED RELATIONS BETWEEN INDEPENDENT STATES OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE WOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE ELECTED ASSEMBLIES OF THE TWO STATES, AND NOTED CAPE VERDE COUNTING ON US FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE IN IMMEDIATE POST-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD. MULCAHY WELCOMED THE DELEGATION TO THE DEPARTMENT, SAID WE LOOK FORWARD TO CLOSE RELATIONS WITH CAPE VERDE BASED ON MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, APPLAUDED A POLICY OF HONEST NON-ALIGNMENT, AND STATED OUR AID EXPERTS WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE WITH MEMBERS OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPE VERDE (TGCV). END SUMMARY.

2. GIL FERNANDES, NEWLY DESIGNATED GUINEA-BISSAU AMBASSADOR TO UN, ACCOMPANIED PAIGC DELEGATION COMPOSED OF

PEDRO PIRES, PAIGC CHAIRMAN FOR CAPE VERDE, CORSINO TOLENTINO, AND EMANUEL PEREIRA. IN ADDITION TO AF OFFICIALS, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EUR/IB ALSO ATTENDED THE DEPARTMENT SESSION. THE DELEGATION SPENT MARCH 20-21 IN WASHINGTON AND MET WITH WORLD BANK OFFICIALS AND US SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN. ON MARCH 19 PIRES HAD TALKED TO UN SECGEN WALDHEIM AND HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS FROM NUMBER OF UN AGENCIES. PAIGC DELEGATION MEETING WITH AAI AND PRIVATE ASSISTANCE AGENCIES IN NEW YORK ON 24 MARCH. PIRES DEPARTING US 25 MARCH.

3. POLITICAL: PIRES CONSIDERED MEETING WITH OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR US RELATIONS WITH AFRICA IMPORTANT AS CAPE VERDE ORGANIZING ITS FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PAIGC DESIRES BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH USG. PIRES SAID GROUP IS IN US TO EXPLAIN ITS POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AS SOME PERSONS IN US HAVE DISTORTED PAIGC POLICY (REFERENCE TO ANTI-PAIGC CAPE VERDIANS IN NEW ENGLAND AND PRE-COUP PORTUGUESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS). HE STRESSED THAT, BECAUSE OF FACTORS OF POLITICAL REALITY AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, PAIGC HAS ADOPTED POLICY OF STRICT NON-ALIGNMENT NOT AS A TACTIC BUT AS NECESSITY.

4. ON TOPIC CAPE VERDE - GUINEA-BISSAU QUOTE UNITY UNQUOTE PIRES NOTED PAIGC AS A SINGLE ORGANIZATION HAD DIRECTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 066747

INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS IN THE TWO TERRITORIES. HE NOTED HE HAD LED DELEGATIONS WHICH NEGOTIATED INDEPENDENCE ACCORDS FOR THE TWO STATES. HE ASKED UNDERSTANDING FOR GREAT IMPORTANCE PAIGC ATTACHES TO GB-CV RELATIONS. PIRES THEN EMPHASIZED THERE WOULD BE TWO INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN STATES, WHOSE LEGISLATURES WOULD DETERMINE THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS. HE NOTED PAIGC ALWAYS FOUGHT FOR QUOTE UNITY UNQUOTE OF GB AND CV, ADDING THAT DECISIONS

ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE ELECTED ASSEMBLIES OF THE TWO STATES. HE SAID CAPE VERDE WOULD JOIN OAU, AND NOTED PAIGC FAVORS QUOTE AFRICAN UNITY UNQUOTE BECAUSE OF NEED FOR A WIDER FRAMEWORK TO ASSIST NON-VIABLE SMALL STATES. PIRES ADDED CAPE VERDIANS HAVE NOT YET FORMULATED DRAFT CONSTITUTION OR BEGUN PLANS FOR INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING PIRES' EARLIER ALLUSION TO ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS OF PAIGC HELD BY CAPE VERDIAN COMMUNITY IN US, PIRES SAID PORTUGUESE COLONIALIST AND FASCIST PROPAGANDA HAD CLAIMED PAIGC WAS AGAINST PRIVATE PROPERTY, WOULD SHIP ALL WOMEN FROM ISLANDS, AND WAS OPPOSED TO RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS. PIRES ALSO STATED PORTUGUESE HAD ATTEMPTED EMPHASIZE RACIAL AND TRIBAL ISSUES. HE CLAIMED THAT THERE WERE

MANY PERSONS AMONG THE US CAPE VERDIAN COMMUNITY WHO HAD COLLABORATED WITH THE OLD PORTUGUESE REGIME. HE OPINED THAT ONLY SOLUTION TO COUNTER NEGATIVE PROPAGANDA IS A FULL EXPLANATION OF PAIGC PROGRAM TO CAPE VERDIANS RESIDENT IN US. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME CAPE VERDIANS WERE EASILY FOOLED BY ANTI-PAIGC INFORMATION BECAUSE CAPE VERDIANS HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN POLITICS.

6. ECONOMIC: PIRES SAID PAIGC INHERITING A COUNTRY IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC POSITION AS A RESULT OF CONTINUING DROUGHT NOW IN SEVENTH YEAR. HE CLAIMED PORTUGAL HAD NOT CREATED INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO WITHSTAND EFFECTS OF DROUGHT, FOCUSING ONLY ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND WORK PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE LITTLE IMPACT IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. PIRES SAID IMMEDIATE NEED IS FOOD FOR SIX MONTH PERIOD AFTER INDEPENDENCE. THIS FOOD WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 066747

GUARANTEE SUBSISTANCE TO POPULATION WHILE GIVING GOVERNMENT TIME TO STUDY AND PLAN FOR MEDIUM AND LONG TERM ASSISTANCE WHICH WOULD CREATE CONDITIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. PIRES NOTED NEED FOR STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS, ADDING UNDP IS ALREADY WORKING ON PROGRAMS TO ASSIST CAPE VERDE SOIL CONSERVATION, REFORESTATION, HYDROLOGY, AND METEOROLOGY.

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, PIRES SAID CAPE VERDE WILL DISCUSS MONETARY AFFAIRS WITH PORTUGAL. CAPE VERDE PREFERS TO ISSUE ITS OWN CURRENCY, WHILE REMAINING WITHIN ESCUDO ZONE. ON THE SUBJECT OF FISHING, PIRES STATED CAPE VERDE HAD UNFORTUNATE RESULTS WITH EXTERNALLY-CONTROLLED FISHING COMPANIES WHICH DRAINED SCARCE RESOURCES FROM ISLANDS RATHER THAN ASSISTING THEIR

DEVELOPMENT. TOURISM DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE STUDIED CAREFULLY TO AVOID A SITUATION WHERE POOR CAPE VERDIANS BEG FROM RICH TOURISTS. WITH REGARD TO AGRICULTURE, PIRES SAID LAND TENURE SYSTEM VARIES FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND. HE STATED MANY SMALL HOLDERS ARE NOT VIABLE ECONOMIC UNITS, BUT ADDED AGRARIAN PROBLEMS ARE DELICATE AND MUST BE HANDLED WITH CARE. PIRES EMPHASIZED ISLANDS' NEED FOR INDUSTRIES WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, PAST EXPERIENCE WOULD CAUSE PAIGC TO STUDY ALL PROPOSALS CAREFULLY.

8. MULCAHY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CONGRESS WOULD VOTE ASSISTANCE FUNDS FOR FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, AND ADDED USAID WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PROGRAMS WITH TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPE VERDE. HE SAID WE ARE PLEASED TO LEARN OF PAIGC'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY, NOTING OUR BELIEF THAT HONEST NON-ALIGNMENT IS GOOD POLICY FOR SMALL STATES IN ERA OF DETENTE. MULCAHY OPINED ONLY

GREAT POWER COMPETITION WITH REGARD SMALL NATIONS SHOULD BE COMPETITION TO ASSIST THEIR DEVELOPMENT. US LOOKS FORWARD TO CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CAPE VERDE BASED ON MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, HE STATED. MULCAHY SAID US WOULD WANT TO BE AMONG FIRST STATES TO RECOGNIZE JULY 5 INDEPENDENCE OF CAPE VERDE, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSIONS ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, ECONOMIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE, AND SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

9. MEETING WAS FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT. DELEGATION EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT WELCOME ACCORDED BY DEPARTMENT IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUEST TO EXPLAIN PAIGC POSITIONS AND CAPE VERDE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION.

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